

**SEPTEMBER
2000**

JIN COMMUNITY UPDATE

*A report to the criminal justice community on issues of common interest
Vol. 1, No. 8*

JIN Conference registration is open

The Justice Information Network (JIN) Conference 2000 registration has begun. The conference will be held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle on November 8. Registration material can be obtained by visiting the JIN Conference 2000 website at <http://www.wa.gov/dis/jin/jin2000>, or by contacting the Conference Coordinator, Laurel Frank at laurelf@dis.wa.gov or 360-902-3566.

This year's conference promises to be the single most informative conference of the year dealing with justice in the state of Washington. The registration fee for this conference is \$50, which includes the conference, all related materials, lunch and refreshments. Registration is limited to 300 people.

For more information, please see the JIN Conference 2000 website.

GIS and law enforcement

The Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC) will conduct a videoconference on October 19th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The meeting will be centered on the law enforcement use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Specific GIS applications dealing with crime analysis, emergency management response, and E911 will be presented by various local and state government organizations. Approximately 1-1/2 hours of the two-hour meeting will be devoted solely to GIS and law enforcement. The WAGIC videoconference agenda describing the various GIS applications that will be presented will be sent out via e-mail prior to the October 19 meeting. So please come if you have an interest in applying geospatial technology to criminal justice activities.

There is no charge to attend this videoconference, which will have conference sites at Department of Information Services Interactive Technology locations in Lacey, Bellingham, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg, Seattle and Vancouver. (For maps to the conference sights, go to <http://www.wa.gov/gic/region.htm>)

If you or your agency have an interest in attending this meeting, please send your name and email address to the JIN Coordinator at DennisH@dis.wa.gov and additional information will be sent to you from WAGIC.

Additional information about the work of WAGIC can be obtained from its web site at <http://www.wa.gov/gic>. They also have a LISTSERV that you can subscribe to by following the links provided in the WAGIC web area.

**Next CJA
Executive Committee
Meeting:
10:00 a.m. Tuesday,
September 19th
DIS Boardroom**

**Next JIC Meeting:
Tuesday, October 24th
at 1:00 p.m.
DIS Boardroom Forum
Building
605 – 11th Ave SE
in Olympia**

‘XML for Dummies’

At the last CJIA Executive Committee meeting, the Data Standards Committee-- which is chaired by Tom Clarke of OAC-- made a presentation describing the work of the committee. At the request of the committee, Tom agreed to make a presentation at the September meeting about the use of XML, its benefits and the work of the XML Legal Community.

All are invited to the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 19 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the DIS Boardroom in Olympia. For additional information, please contact the JIN Coordinator at DennisH@dis.wa.gov or call 360-902-3463.

Washington State Patrol working with SEARCH

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) has requested technical assistance from SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics. The request was approved by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics on August 11, 2000. SEARCH assigned Mr. Robert Marx, Senior System Specialist Emeritus, to the technical assistance engagement. Mr. Marx visited WSP in Olympia during the week of August 14.

The technical assistance (TA) requests assistance in three areas:

- ◆ Recommend process improvements within the Criminal History Division of WSP;
- ◆ Recommend methods to reduce the backlog of unprocessed fingerprint cards and disposition forms;
- ◆ Recommend organizational changes needed for real-time fingerprint identification services.

During an initial meeting with Mr. Marx, the WSP asked that the work be expanded to consider a fourth area. SEARCH was asked to describe a completely modern criminal history environment concentrating on what a truly modern state criminal history functions would "look like" and "feel like."

The WSP expects this effort to be completed in September 2000.

Improved Driver's License Project

The Department of Licensing (DOL) has initiated the Improved Driver License (IDL) Project to implement the new, digitized driver's license in Washington state. The project is currently in design and development phase, and is scheduled for implementation throughout the state by July 1, 2001. Selected Licensing Services Offices will be piloting the issuance of the new license beginning in the first quarter of 2001.

Stakeholders working with DOL designed the new driver's license. Those

involved included representatives from the Washington State Patrol, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Washington Liquor Control Board, Pacific NW License Tax and Fraud Association, Seattle & King County Public Health, Seattle Municipal Court, Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Washington Retail Association.

The new driver's license, which will feature a picture of Mt. Rainier in the background, will be a more secure document. The new licenses will not be issued over the counter; the driver will be issued a temporary driver's license and the new license will be mailed within 3-5 working days. Drivers under the age of 21 will be issued a distinctively different license from those drivers who are over 21; the under-21 license will be a portrait style license, while the over 21 license will continue to be a landscape style. The printing on the licenses will be more distinct and easier to read than currently issued licenses and the licenses will also include a one- and two-dimensional barcode on the back of the license.

Coordinating JIN projects across state and local governments

Efforts to fully involve local jurisdictions in every aspect of JIN and ensure coordination and consistency between JIN and state and local government projects are resulting in progress. Since February 2000, the JIN coordinator has traveled throughout Washington, meeting with criminal justice communities in Skagit, Lewis, Clark, Cowlitz, Mason, Jefferson, Thurston, Pacific, Island, Wahkiakum, Grays Harbor, San Juan, Chelan, Okanogan, Clallam and Kittitas counties. He also met with the IT staff at these counties to discuss the JIN. As of the end of August, the JIN Coordinator has met with 26 of Washington's 39 counties.

The feedback from local jurisdictions is supportive of JIN and its efforts, mission and goals. In addition to informing the local jurisdictions about JIN and its projects, the coordinator will attempt to organize regional groups of justice partners.

The *JIN Community Update* is continues to be a strong vehicle for sharing information with local government. The JIN web page at <http://www.wa.gov/dis/jin> also provides up-to-date information about evolving projects.

‘Good-byes’ and ‘hello’ from the CJIA Executive Committee

Nancy Reiha from the Sentencing Guidelines Commission and Dan Fleissner for the Seattle-King County Regional Law and Safety Committee have left the CJIA Executive Committee. Nancy has moved on to another position at the Sentencing Guideline Commission and Dan has left King County. We are sorry to see these fine folks leave the committee and wish them both well.

At the August 31 meeting of the Seattle and King County Regional Law, Safety and Justice Committee, Laurie Needham was named to fill Dan Fleissner's position. We welcome Laurie and know that she will be an

outstanding member of the CJIA Executive Committee.

Information about the JIN

If you have any questions or concerns about the Justice Information Network, please contact the JIN Coordinator, Dennis Hausman at DennisH@dis.wa.gov or call him at 360-902-3463.

Features

The JIN Community Update is an information digest for the state's criminal justice community. While it will continue to provide an at-a-glance source of information, from time to time it will also carry longer features.

This edition features a profile on the new wireless network in Yakima Valley, and information about the new Seattle Safety and Justice Technology Plan.

Wireless network links Yakima-area law enforcement agencies

YAKIMA, August 28, 2000 - Public safety increasingly relies on accurate, timely and secure information exchange among state and local criminal justice agencies and law enforcement. In the Yakima, Wash. area, the Lower Valley Public Safety Network recently went live with a high-speed wireless data network linking Yakima County and lower valley law enforcement agencies for fast access to criminal records and other information.

The wireless network provides lower valley communities with extensive links to state and federal agencies, including the Washington State Patrol, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The system allows law enforcement officials the ability to share information at speeds many times faster than previously available, and will eventually extend that access to officers on the street.

Linking valley agencies with the State Patrol

In Sunnyside Wash., officers already have that capability through laptops installed in city patrol cruisers. "Our police officers now have access to all of the information available to them from the office while in their cars," states Sunnyside Police Captain Phil Schenck. According to Schenck, officers have immediate access to crime data collected by other police departments throughout the valley as well as the Department of Licensing and the National Crime Information Center.

Eventually, Schenck anticipates a digital link to Washington State Patrol computers that will allow near-instant identification of previously arrested individuals. The statewide Justice Information Network will enable this connection.

Cost savings for participating communities is also significant. "We estimate

Feature Stories

the Sheriff's Office is already saving \$350-\$450 per month on data circuit charges," said George Helton of Yakima County Technology Services. Schenck estimates current savings for the Sunnyside Police Department at \$600-\$700 per month. "Through the network, we can provide wireless connections at a fraction of the cost of traditional phone services," added Schenck.

Funding for the lower valley network, which is the first phase in a three-phase effort to link the entire county, was provided by a \$100,000 High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant. The next step is to connect the wireless network in the upper valley. "This is only the beginning of a network that will have enormous benefit to Yakima County citizens," said Helton.

City of Seattle introduces its 2000-2005 Law, Safety & Justice Technology Workplan

Recognizing that the old way of doing business is not viable in the Internet age, the city of Seattle is setting out to design a realistic goal for technology over the next five years. The plan is centered on expectations about what can be accomplished with existing resources, building on a series of achievable goals.

In that framework, the City of Seattle will be looking toward replacing computer systems in the Fire Department, Police Department and possibly the Municipal Court with goal of integration and data sharing in mind. While core systems are replaced, the Seattle Justice Information System (SEAJIS) will be designed to increase user access, both within and between agencies, to data that is required to support informed decision-making, regardless of whose system the data resides in.

This initiative will provide value to the City of Seattle as well as to state and federal agencies by providing data to systems including: Washington Incident Based Reporting System (WIBRS); the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS); Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS); the (state) Office of the Administrator of the Courts, Automated Filing Project; the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) 2000; and the Washington State Justice Information Network (JIN).

For more information about the City of Seattle Technology Workplan, please contact: Mike Nagan, Seattle Law, Safety & Justice Technology Planning Office, 206/684-0582 or email at: mike.nagan@ci.seattle.wa.us.

Tell us about it...

If you have information or a feature story that you believe would be of value to the Justice Community, please send it to the JIN Coordinator at DennisH@dis.wa.gov.

Related Story

Sheriffs, counties and cities launch study of regional jails

-From the August 18, 2000 edition of [The Courthouse Journal](#)

Jail capacity and bed space have become critical issues in the state of Washington. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), in conjunction with a steering committee representing county, city and state government, is conducting a study regarding the feasibility of shared capacity through the use of regional jails.

The study will examine various models for shared-capacity jails currently used in the United States, and depending on the findings, may include recommendations for a model that would work in Washington. This is a cooperative effort to help identify a mechanism to relieve overcrowding in county and city jails.

A \$75,000 grant from the Washington State Law and Justice Advisory Council (WSLJAC) is funding the 11-month study.